

**NISTIR 6774**

# **Workshop On Fire Testing Measurement Needs: Proceedings**

William Grosshandler  
(Editor)



**NIST**

**National Institute of Standards and Technology**  
Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce



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*Building and Fire Research Laboratory*

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**U.S. Department of Commerce**  
*Donald Evans, Secretary*

**National Institute of Standards and Technology**  
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## **Test Laboratories: A Manufacturer's Viewpoint**

by  
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Representing  
The American Plastics Council  
Arlington, Virginia

## **Why Do Manufacturers Test their Products?**

- Understand product/material performance
- Code/regulation requirement
- Product stewardship
- Potential liability

## **Importance Of Tests**

- Can mean go/no-go for a product
  - Continue development
  - Reformulate
  - Not pursue development

## **Types Of Tests**

- ♦ Standardized tests
  - Small-scale
  - Full-scale
- ♦ Ad hoc tests
  - Typically full-scale

## **The Best Tests (Industry Position):**

- ♦ Provide a meaningful measure of performance
- ♦ Should be reflective of end-use application
- ♦ Should be of a scale and intensity to provide appropriate measures of performance

## **What is expected of a Test Laboratory?**

- ♦ Expertise in performing the test(s)
- ♦ Provide assistance/information
- ♦ Be acceptable to the AHJ
- ♦ Calibrated/appropriate facilities
- ♦ Cost effective

### **What is expected of a Test Laboratory? (cont.)**

- ♦ Timely testing
- ♦ Timely/complete reporting
- ♦ Support of test report/data
- ♦ Maintain "Independent Status"
- ♦ "Appropriate test results"

### **Appropriate Test Results**

- ♦ Accurate measure of performance within the scope of the test method
- ♦ Repeatable test results
  - Within lab
  - Lab-lab

### **Future Tests Will Provide:**

- ♦ More engineering data
- ♦ More realistic scenarios
- ♦ More instrumentation and accurate measurements
- ♦ Input for analytical analysis